

## DAILY EXPRESS OPINION

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1977

### The assault on the police

THE bloody and disgraceful events in Lewisham on Saturday cast a fierce light on something sinister which is going on in this country.

A section of the extreme Left are out to discredit and demoralise the police force. Not everyone who travelled to South London was there to produce a peaceful counter-demonstration to the National Front march.

As the pictures we publish show, many of them came armed with weapons designed to cause serious injury. The targets and the victims were the police.

The same pattern was evident during the violent picketing at Grunwick. In both cases, the yoboes took it as a chance to put the boot in.

Nor is it hard to see why they adopt these tactics. Revolutionaries can make no headway in a peaceful, tolerant, law-abiding society. They need to stir things up, to discredit authority, to polarise society into warring camps. In a society breaking down they can have a voice, a place, a function—in short, power.

We have seen this thing happen in Northern Ireland. The far Left want it to happen here too. And race is tailor-made to be the issue they will use. It gives rise to the strongest feelings of resentment and guilt. It is the best detonator they have for the production of violent confrontations.

In the way stand the bobbies, the impartial guardians of decency, liberty, and peace. So they must be attacked, abused, and demoralised. So that many will leave. So that recruiting will fall. So that the thin blue line which guards us from anarchy will get thinner and weaker.

What is to be done? Already we are hearing calls for the banning of National Front marches. The Daily Express called last week for the banning of Saturday's march because of the risk of violence.

But our case is not directed just against the National Front. We believe there should be a new policy for all political demonstrations. We have no time or sympathy for the Front, and there is no doubt that it is provocative. All the same, the Front does not go in for attacks on the police or on authority.

No, any new rules should have general application. It would surely be a good idea to designate certain areas, such as Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, and Trafalgar Square, as the right areas for political rallies and demos, while prohibiting them elsewhere. This would enable people to let off steam, and leave the rest of us in peace.

### For the victims, the profits

A NEW American law is designed to make sure that any money made by "Son of Sam," the New York killer, from selling his story to the media, should go to his victims or their relatives. This is an excellent idea and a sound principle. More relevant in America than here perhaps, but it would nevertheless be a useful addition to English law.

**'It's not the right-wing groups who attack the police or set out to destroy our way of life and bring chaos to this country'**



A blood-spattered policeman at Lewisham... fighting for us against the destroyers

A FASCIST is someone who seeks to gain and keep political power by violent, non-Parliamentary means.

Fascism sets itself up against representative democracy and liberal values. It speaks the language of force.

Since it originally competed with Communism for the support of the working class and since big business consequently supported it in Italy and Germany, it became thought of as "Right-wing."

But it has far more in common with Communism and extreme Socialism than it has with Liberalism and Conservatism.

What we have seen growing in this country in recent years and what we saw reaching a horrible climax in the streets of London on Saturday is Red fascism.

I hold no brief for the National Front and have no doubt that its march was intended as a provocation partly against the coloured population of Lewisham and partly against the various Left-wing extremist groups such as the Socialist Workers, the International Marxist Group and the Young Socialists.

But the National Front is not committed to violence or to the overthrow of Parliamentary institutions. And the great majority of its supporters and members are not fascists. They do not start the fighting; they do not attack the police.

#### VIOLENCE

Fascism in this country has become the prerogative of the extreme Left. Disorder in this country is the creation and the object of the extreme Left. The militants make no bones about it — their object is to use violent means to destroy our existing institutions and to bring about a revolution.

The country faces no such threat from any Right-wing groups which nowadays indeed make passionate noises about liberty and about the need to defend Parliament and the rule of law. The threat to law and order, to peace and quiet,

# Threat of the left-wing fascists



By  
**GEORGE  
GALE**

and to our freedoms of speech and assembly, comes entirely from the fascist Left.

And when we look abroad, and consider how this country's security is threatened we see again that no threat whatever comes from Right-wing regimes, or from any representative, presidential or parliamentary democracy.

The threat comes solely and entirely from the militarist Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Pact, whose totalitarian dictatorship oppress their peoples and sustain the greatest conventional war machine the world has known.

The great strategic probability must be that only the fear of nuclear retaliation prevents the Red hordes from falling upon the West.

We seem to have come a long way from Lewisham.

But the fighting in the streets there and the fighting that the huge armaments build-up of the Soviet Union constantly threatens—and, come to that, the fighting in the last war—are all about the same thing.

That is the attempt of revolutionaries to destroy the existing stable, liberal and Parliamentary order, and the need on our part to fight back in order to defend our way of life.

#### MARCHING

The police were on our side at Lewisham, fighting for us against those who wish to destroy our way of life and bring chaos to this country. They were also on our side at Grunwick.

On Saturday morning at

Lewisham there was a march directed against the National Front march of the afternoon. Among its leaders were Dr Mervyn Stockwood, the Bishop of Southwark, and the Mayor of Lewisham, Mr Roger Godsiff.

Their march was peaceful enough; but among those marching with the bishop and the mayor, were those who went on to cause the violence which started an hour before the National Front march began.

Did the bishop and the mayor know with whom they were marching?

Condemning violence, did they not know that the violent men were in their march, in their company?

#### RACISTS

Do the bishop and the mayor not see that by marching alongside the fascists of the Left they confer respectability on them and on their violence?

The bishop's and the mayor's march was organised by an outfit calling itself the All Lewisham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism. Among these "campaigners" are Red fascists.

As for racialism, can the supporters of these "campaigners" not see that there are black racists as well as white ones in this country, and black fascist tyrannies abroad?

It is very tempting to say, having observed what happened in Lewisham, that marches of the National Front should be banned — and demonstrations be confined to assemblies. But are trade union marches to be banned? Or pacifist marches? Or Women's Lib or Gay Lib marches? Is the National Front to be banned, because its opponents attack the police?

If so, then the fascists of the Left, the men of violence, will have won a famous victory.

For all marches to be banned, and only the right to free assembly be sustained, might be acceptable.

But to deny the National Front a right accorded to all other groups, including the overtly subversive, would be a shameful surrender to the forces of revolution and disorder: a triumph for those who would subvert our free institutions.

Who wants that? Only the Red fascists.